(a) whether Swiss Banks have agreed to share details of accounts to help hunt black money, in case India gives evidence;

(b) if so, whether Swiss Banks seek concrete information, for tracing tax evaders and have agreed that they would follow international norms provided concrete information like names of banks and other specific details are furnished;

(c) whether they have also pointed out that the new tax pact will help India to trace black money; and

(d) if so, whether India has agreed to have a thorough discussion with the Swiss Government in December in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government has no agreement with the banks in Switzerland for sharing of details of the Indian account holders. However, Government can seek information for tax purposes from the Federal Tax Administration of Switzerland in accordance with the provisions of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries. In terms of the existing DTAA, notified in 1995 and amended through a notification in 2001, it has not been possible to obtain information regarding bank deposits in Switzerland. However, Government is aware of the news reports of September 2009, wherein the Vice President of Switzerland, in the context of tracing black money, is reported to have stated that "We follow international norms. If you have concrete information like name of the bank and other specific details then there should be no problem". In one of such reports titled "New tax pact to help India track black money", the Vice President is also stated to have responded with a "yes" when asked as to whether renegotiating the treaty would enable India to seek details of specific cases where money of tax evaders was lying in Swiss banks.

2. Our side initiated dialogue with Swiss authorities for renegotiating the DTAA in April, 2009. During negotiations, we expect to discuss and settle issues relating to the scope of and procedures governing exchange of information including information held by banks. First round of these negotiations, initially scheduled for December, 2009, was pre-poned and held at Berne during 10th Nov 2009 to 12th Nov 2009.

Poor research facilities in AIIMS

*76. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the faculty members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have been resigning due poor research facilities there;

(b) the process and protocol followed before any research grant is sanctioned in AIIMS;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the faculty members of AIIMS have complained against delay in approval of research grants;

(d) if so, whether the issue was discussed in the Governing Body of AIIMS;

(e) if so, when and what was the outcome; and

(f) what steps are being taken to facilitate research grants in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) Extramural research in AIIMS is managed under the guidance of the Research Committee of the Institute. As per procedures laid down, research proposals are forwarded to funding agencies by the faculty members/Scientists and upon receipt of financial sanctions from the funding agencies, approval of the competent authority at AIIMS is issued subject to clearances from the Ethics Committee, Animal Ethics Committee, Bio Safety Committee, Health Ministry Screening Committee, Radiation Safety Committee and the Clinical Trial Registry.

For intramural research, proposal are submitted to the Dean, AIIMS, which are screened and evaluated by three sub committees of Senior faculty members. Rs.50.00 lakh per annum is allocated for Intramural research.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) In order to facilitate research grants, AIIMS permits every faculty member/Scientist to prepare project proposals and apply for intramural and extramural grant. Besides to facilitate speedier approval, various committees meet at periodical intervals in a systematic fashion. Finally, AIIMS also has its internal fund of Rs.50.00 lakh per annum which is provided for small research projects submitted by junior faculty.

Construction of airport in Andal

†*77. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of an airport at Andal in West Bengal is under consideration;

(b) if so, the land required for the same and the land acquired so far for this purpose;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a coal reserve of 20 thousand lakh tonnes beneath this land;

(d) whether sufficient steps are being taken to safeguard this airport from fire incident in this coal reserve due to any natural calamity; and

(e) by when the construction work of this airport will be completed?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.